

FEBRUARY 16, 1839.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ADAMS, from the Joint Committee on the Smithsonian Bequest, reported the following bill :

**A BILL**

Providing for the disposition and management of the fund bequeathed to the United States, in trust, by James Smithson, of London, deceased, for the establishment of an institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2   *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*  
3   all sum or sums of money heretofore received, or which shall  
4   hereafter be received, under and in pursuance of the last will  
5   and testament of the late James Smithson, deceased, of Lon-  
6   don, and all fund or funds, stock or stocks, or evidence or  
7   evidences of public debt whatsoever, in which said sum or  
8   sums of money have been, or shall hereafter be, invested, shall  
9   be, and are hereby, constituted and declared to be a fund to  
10   be named or styled "the Smithsonian fund," and shall be  
11   under the management and control of nine trustees, to be  
12   styled "the board of trustees of the Smithsonian fund;" sub-  
13   ject, however, to such rules, regulations, and restrictions as  
14   the Congress of the United States may or shall, from time  
15   to time, make, ordain, or establish: and said trustees shall

16 constitute a portion of such corporation as shall hereafter be  
17 created by Congress for the government of an institution for  
18 the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the said trus-  
2 tees shall hold their offices for the term of one year, and  
3 until their successors be appointed, and shall be appoint-  
4 ed annually on or before the                   day of

5           , in the following manner; that is to say: three of the  
6 said trustees shall be appointed by the Senate and three by  
7 the House of Representatives, in such manner as the said  
8 Houses shall respectively determine, and the remaining three  
9 shall be appointed by the President of the United States:  
10 and the trustees so appointed, or a majority of them, shall  
11 meet together, in the city of Washington, on the

12 day of                   next succeeding their appointment, and  
13 shall elect one of their own body as president of said board;  
14 they shall have authority to appoint a clerk and printer, and  
15 fix their respective compensations; and make and establish  
16 such rules and regulations for their own government as they  
17 may deem necessary or proper; hold one or more sessions  
18 for the transaction of business during the recess of Congress;  
19 and adjourn from day to day, as they may deem proper; they  
20 shall keep a journal of their proceedings, and report the  
21 same or an attested copy thereof to both Houses of Congress

22 on or before the                      day of                      , in each  
23 and every year.

1        SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That all expenditures  
2 made by the said board shall be subject to the approval of  
3 the President of the United States ; and all the accounts  
4 thereof shall be reported to the Secretary of the Treasury,  
5 and audited, under his direction, by the proper officers of the  
6 Treasury Department; and the said board shall report to  
7 Congress, at every session thereof, the state of the Smith-  
8 sonian fund, and a full statement of their receipts and expen-  
9 ditures during the preceding year.

1        SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the said trus-  
2 tees be, and they are hereby, specially authorized and direct-  
3 ed to prepare such a charter of incorporation, and such a plan  
4 of an institution for the increase and diffusion of knowledge  
5 among men, as to them may appear best adapted to carry  
6 into effect the bona-fide intention of the testator, the said  
7 James Smithson, and to report the same for the consideration  
8 and action of Congress at the next session thereof.